

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 048917  
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 ONY-00 /019 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:DEREUTHER:LF  
APPROVED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER  
-----051650 044072 /46 R  
R 042225Z MAR 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

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STADIS////////////////////  
FROM DRAPER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, SY

SUBJECT: DAMASCUS INTERNATIONAL FAIR

REF: DAMASCUS 1377

1. WE FIND YOUR SUGGESTION OF USING MIDDLE EAST SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FUNDS (MESRF) FOR A PERMANENT COMMERCIAL PAVILION INFINITELY MORE SALEABLE THAN THE FIRE DRILL EXERCISE PREVIOUSLY CONTEMPLATED. A PERMANENT PAVILION WOULD APPEAR TO BE THE RIGHT POLITICAL SIGNAL AT THIS TIME AND GIVE GREATER MILEAGE FOR THE MONEY INVOLVED. WITH DUE REGARD TO THE ACCOUNTING PROCEDURES IN PARA. 5 REFTTEL, WE WILL NEED A CLEAR READING ON THE AMOUNT OF MESRF TO BE REQUESTED. DOLS. 70,000 MIGHT BE MORE PRUDENT.

2. SINCE WE ARE DISCUSSING CONSTRUCTION, NEA/EX POINTS OUT THAT IF THE PROJECT IS UNDER STATE AUSPICES, FBO WILL  
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WANT TO GET INTO THE ACT, CONSIDERABLY COMPLICATING MATTERS. IF, HOWEVER, THE PAVILION IS A DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PROJECT, THE REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS ON THE DISBURSAL OF FUNDS ARE LESS STRINGENT. AS MUCH AS THEROS IS PREPARED TO GET OUT THERE WITH HIS HAMMER, SUPERVISING CONSTRUCTION HAS ITS COMPLICATIONS; AS DOES PROVIDING MESRF MONEY FOR A COMMERCE PROJECT.

3. IN MAKING YOUR FORMAL PRESENTATION, IT MIGHT BE HELPFUL TO EXPLAIN HOW THE QUIRK IN SYRIAN IMPORT REGULATIONS IN EFFECT REQUIRES THAT THE U.S. PARTICIPATE IN THE DAMASCUS FAIR. OF COURSE, WE WOULD ASSUME HERE THAT A FAILURE TO PARTICIPATE WOULD NOT NECESSARILY MEAN THAT U.S. EXPORTS TO SYRIA WOULD STOP. WON'T THE SYRIANS MAKE SOME EXPEDIENT ADJUSTMENT IN THEIR REGULATIONS.  
CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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